

HAER
VA
30-GREFA,
1B -

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

~~Master~~ Photo Caption List

Potowmack Company: Great Falls Canal & Locks
West Bank of the Potomac River,
12 miles upriver from Washington, DC
Great Falls
Fairfax County
Virginia

HAER No. VA-13, 13A, 13B, 13C

Great Falls Canal: Lock 2 HAER VA, 30-GREFA, 1B-

- VA-13B-1 General view from top of Lock 2 looking NE. Jack Boucher, photographer, 1971.
- VA-13B-2 East wall of Lock 2 looking SE from top of lock. Jack Boucher, photographer, 1971.
- VA-13B-3 General view from S of Lock 2. Jack Boucher, photographer, 1971.
- VA-13B-4 East wall of Lock 2 showing masonry repairwork. Jack Boucher, photographer, 1971.
- VA-13B-5 West wall of Lock 2 looking N. Jack Boucher, photographer, 1971.
- VA-13B-6 East wall of Lock 2 looking N showing deformation of masonry. Jack Boucher, photographer, 1971.
- VA-13B-7 View of interior of Lock No. 2 on George Washington "Potowmack" Canal at Great Falls, Virginia. This lock is about 15 ft. in depth and possibly 70 or 60 ft. in length. Some 15 or 20 years ago, when a restoration was crudely attempted, the old oaken flooring, which was invariably placed at the bottom of canal locks, was roughly torn up and destroyed. The trunks and stumps of gigantic trees still remain from this restorative effort, and their girth indicates again the antiquity of this evidence of George Washington's work as an engineer.

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CONT'D: The stones are of the red Seneca type and were evidently ferried from the Maryland side above the dam and then brought by sled or rollers to this location. These stones were beautifully hand-cut and fitted with precision and trim alignment. The walls were constructed two stones deep, and at the lower right hand corner of the photograph can be seen where onrushing waters, due to the floods of 1936 and 1942, went through the masonry and washed some of the lower stones away.

The recess on the right hand side shows where one of the lock gates moved back into place, to permit boats to move through easily.

This is one of the few examples of the work of General George Washington, the engineer, if not the only example extant, showing his original directive genius in engineering. As is well known, General Washington inherited Mt. Vernon from his brother Augustine and while he made many additions and corrections there, Mt. Vernon does not represent his original work or creation. Mr. Horyczak, Photographer, 1943.

VA-13B-8 South end of Lock 2 showing gate recess in east wall. Jack Boucher, photographer, 1971.

VA-13B-9 South end of Lock 2 showing deterioration of east wall. Jack Boucher, photographer, 1971.

VA-13B-10 Detail of mason's mark inscribed on stone in east wall of Lock 2. Jack Boucher, photographer, 1971.

VA-13B-11 Detail of stone work in east wall of Lock 2. Jack Boucher, photographer, 1971.